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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

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FINANCIAL SERVICES AND
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ENVIRONMENT

The Honorable Alex Azar, Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services

Dear Secretary Azar,

Thank you for your important work during this global health crisis. As you know, President Trump declared a national emergency to combat the coronavirus pandemic, which included additional authorities and power for you as Secretary of Health and Human Services to protect the public's health.

As you know, the current lack of access to coronavirus tests is hindering our response to this pandemic. It's unacceptable, a preventable failure that has put countless Americans at greater risk. Going forward, the federal government must do better. I, therefore, am calling on you to use your new authorities in support of one particularly important tool to mitigate this crisis: development of drive-thru testing sites nationwide.

Drive-thru testing will decrease the amount of contact between infected patients, providers, and the general public, helping to combat community spread and keep the public better informed. We have seen the efficacy of this across the world and in American cities like Denver and Cleveland. You have the power to do whatever is necessary to bring drive-thru testing nationwide, and the American people are counting on you to use it.

Getting this right will require a laser-like focus on the most effective ways of containing, treating, and ultimately eliminating COVID-19. I know you share the urgency of this matter and will continue to put the American people's best interests first and foremost.

Sincerely,



Charlie Crist
UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN